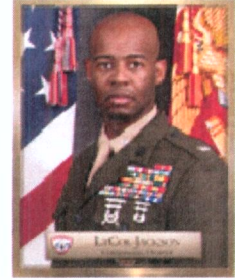


COMMANDING OFFICER COMBAT ASSAULT BATTALION STATEMENT ON SAFETY



Safety is a centerpiece of readiness and must not be taken for granted or overlooked while in the field, in garrison, or on liberty. Risk is inherent in all we do and preserving our most precious assets- the Marines and Sailors of this battalion— is everyone's responsibility. Safety mishaps are not rank specific and anyone can be a victim of a safety incident anywhere and at anytime. Engaged **LEADERSHIP** is the key to prevention.

Proactive **LEADERSHIP** at every level is essential to the successful accomplishment of our mission. The adage, "every Marine and Sailor is a safety officer" must resonate with each and every member of the battalion. Regardless of rank you must correct unsafe practices and conditions to protect and guard against any mishaps. Focusing on safety in Combat Assault Battalion is **paramount** to **mission success**. The safety program starts with front line **LEADERSHIP** who is engaged in supervising our daily activities. Analysis proves time and again that nearly all safety mishaps could have been avoided. From this analysis, Standing Operating Procedures and Operational Risk Management were developed to identify, understand, and mitigate risk - use them.

In the field, maintain situational awareness of your surroundings. As we deploy locally or across the region, each range and training area has its own unique requirements; therefore, weapons orientation, geometry of fires, and range regulations must be followed closely. This requires engaged **LEADERSHIP** and attention to detail.

Don't let your guard down in garrison. The proper use of Personal Protective Equipment, the adherence to ground guiding procedures, and engaged **LEADERSHIP** will ensure short cuts are not taken. Technical Manuals are to be followed. Understand deadline criteria and best practices when conducting preventative and corrective maintenance.

As ambassadors of the United States, all safety-related liberty incidents are amplified. 40% of fatalities are alcohol related. **ALCOHOL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES DO NOT MIX.** Living overseas elevates the need to know your Marines' and Sailors' Leave and Liberty Plans. **Leaders** must ensure their Marines and Sailors have a plan and that it passes the "sniff" test.

Preserving our force is a top priority of Combat Assault Battalion. All members of this command must do their part if we are to **eliminate** the tragic and unnecessary loss of our most treasured asset- the Marines and Sailors of Combat Assault Battalion. This begins with **LEADERSHIP!!**

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